

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 2, 3, 9, 17, 21, 26, 29 and 32 as follows:

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2. (Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein R₁ is Gln, Lys, or Arg; R₂ is Arg; R₃ is Arg; R₄ is selected from the group consisting of all amino acids; R₅ is Ala; R₆ and R₇ are members independently selected from the group consisting of all amino acids; R₈ is Thr; R₉ is selected from the group consisting of all amino acids; R₁₀ is Cys; R₁₁, R₁₂, R₁₃, R₁₄, and R₁₅ are members independently selected from the group consisting of all amino acids; and, R₁₆ is Val (SEQ ID NO:1).

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3. (Amended) The composition of claim 2, wherein R₁ is Gln, Lys, or Arg; R₂ is Arg; R₃ is Arg; R₄ is Ala; R₅ is Ala; R₆ is Val; R₇ is Asp; R₈ is Thr; R₉ is Tyr; R₁₀ is Cys; R₁₁ is Arg; R₁₂ is His; R₁₃ is Asn; R₁₄ is Tyr; R₁₅ is Gly, and R₁₆ is Val (SEQ ID NO:2).

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9. (Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the subsequence encodes a peptide wherein R₁ is Gln, Lys, or Arg; R₂ is Arg; R₃ is Arg; R₄ is Ala; R₅ is Ala; R₆ is Val; R₇ is Asp; R₈ is Thr; R₉ is Tyr; R₁₀ is Cys; R₁₁ is Arg; R₁₂ is His; R₁₃ is Asn; R₁₄ is Tyr; R₁₅ is Gly, and R₁₆ is Val (SEQ ID NO:2).

BIO sub C2
17. (Amended) The kit of claim 15, wherein R₁ is Gln, Lys, or Arg; R₂ is Arg; R₃ is Arg; R₄ is Ala; R₅ is Ala; R₆ is Val; R₇ is Asp; R₈ is Thr; R₉ is Tyr; R₁₀ is Cys; R₁₁ is Arg; R₁₂ is His; R₁₃ is Asn; R₁₄ is Tyr; R₁₅ is Gly, and R₁₆ is Val (SEQ ID NO:2).

BIO sub C3
21. (Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein R₁ is Gln, Lys, or Arg; R₂ is Arg; R₃ is Arg; R₄ is Ala; R₅ is Ala; R₆ is Val; R₇ is Asp; R₈ is Thr; R₉ is Tyr; R₁₀ is Cys; R₁₁ is Arg; R₁₂ is His; R₁₃ is Asn; R₁₄ is Tyr; R₁₅ is Gly, and R₁₆ is Val (SEQ ID NO:2).

26. (Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein R₁ is Gln, Lys, or Arg; R₂ is Arg; R₃ is Arg; R₄ is Ala; R₅ is Ala; R₆ is Val; R₇ is Asp; R₈ is Thr; R₉ is Tyr; R₁₀ is Cys; R₁₁ is Arg; R₁₂ is His; R₁₃ is Asn; R₁₄ is Tyr; R₁₅ is Gly, and R₁₆ is Val (SEQ ID NO:2).

29. (Amended) The immunogenic composition of claim 28, wherein R₁ is Gln, Lys, or Arg; R₂ is Arg; R₃ is Arg; R₄ is Ala; R₅ is Ala; R₆ is Val; R₇ is Asp; R₈ is Thr; R₉ is Tyr; R₁₀ is Cys; R₁₁ is Arg; R₁₂ is His; R₁₃ is Asn; R₁₄ is Tyr; R₁₅ is Gly, and R₁₆ is Val (SEQ ID NO:2).

32. (Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein R₁ is Gln, Lys, or Arg; R₂ is Arg; R₃ is Arg; R₄ is Ala; R₅ is Ala; R₆ is Val; R₇ is Asp; R₈ is Thr; R₉ is Tyr; R₁₀ is Cys; R₁₁ is Arg; R₁₂ is His; R₁₃ is Asn; R₁₄ is Tyr; R₁₅ is Gly, and R₁₆ is Val (SEQ ID NO:2).

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending in this application. Claims 2, 3, 9, 17, 21, 26, 29 and 32 have been amended. The amendments to claims 2, 3, 9, 17, 21, 26, 29 and 32 insert the required assigned identifiers for amino acid sequences described in these claims consistent with the same identifiers assigned elsewhere in the Specification.

Applicants request entry of this amendment in adherence with 37 C.F.R. §§1.821 to 1.825. The information contained in the computer readable form of Application No. 09/181,896 filed December 16, 1999 was prepared through the use of the software program "PatentIn" and was identical to that of the paper copy which was printed from the floppy disk, a copy of which is enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner. This amendment contains no new matter.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the Specification and Claims by the current Amendment. The attached pages are captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE.**" As a convenience to the Examiner, a complete set of the Claims, as amended herein, is also attached to this

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